

Barn Swallow Report 2018

Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks, and Metro Parks and Recreation



Volunteers conduct Barn Swallow survey



Male Barn Swallow
Photo by Charlie Curry



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Warner Park Barn Swallow Project 2018

- 2018 was the inaugural launch of Barn Swallow Project with a survey of Warner Park for nesting Barn Swallows and to test the logistics of banding Barn Swallow nestlings
- The Warner Park Barn Swallow survey was conducted on 27 June 2018 at 7 locations coordinated by Laura Cook with assistance from Patty Ghertner, Sarah McCune (Lipscomb summer intern), and Sandy Bivens
- 4 of the 7 sites surveyed had 59 active or recently active barn swallow nests:
 - ⇒ Warner Park Nature Center (16 nests), Steeplechase Equestrian Barn (20 nests), Steeplechase Equestrian Shed (3 nests), Harpeth Hills Golf Course Maintenance Shed (0 nests), Indian Springs Shelters #1-5 (0 barn swallow nests but 1 active Chimney Swift nest at Shelter #5), Percy Warner Golf Course Maintenance Shed (0 nests), & Hill Forest Barn (20 nests).
- This survey contributes to the iNaturalist Swallow Tracker Project
- On 26 June 2018, conducted 1st ever banding of Barn Swallow chicks at Nature Center. Dr. Matt Wilkins, post-doctorate at Vanderbilt University, demonstrated to our BIRD team banding techniques. A total 8 nestlings from 2 nests were banded.
- BIRD Intern Sarah McCune from Lipscomb University completed her research, *Assessing the Ecological Services provided by North American Barn Swallows*, concluding nestlings from a single barn swallow nest consume over 136,000 insects. For the nests at the WPNC Learning Center, this equates to over 1-million insects! Sarah presented her research at the National Association of Biology Teachers conference in San Diego November 2018.



Barn Swallows banded at WPNC for the 1st time



Barn Swallow nestlings.
Photo by Terry Cook



BIRD Intern, Sarah McCune observes Barn Swallow nests